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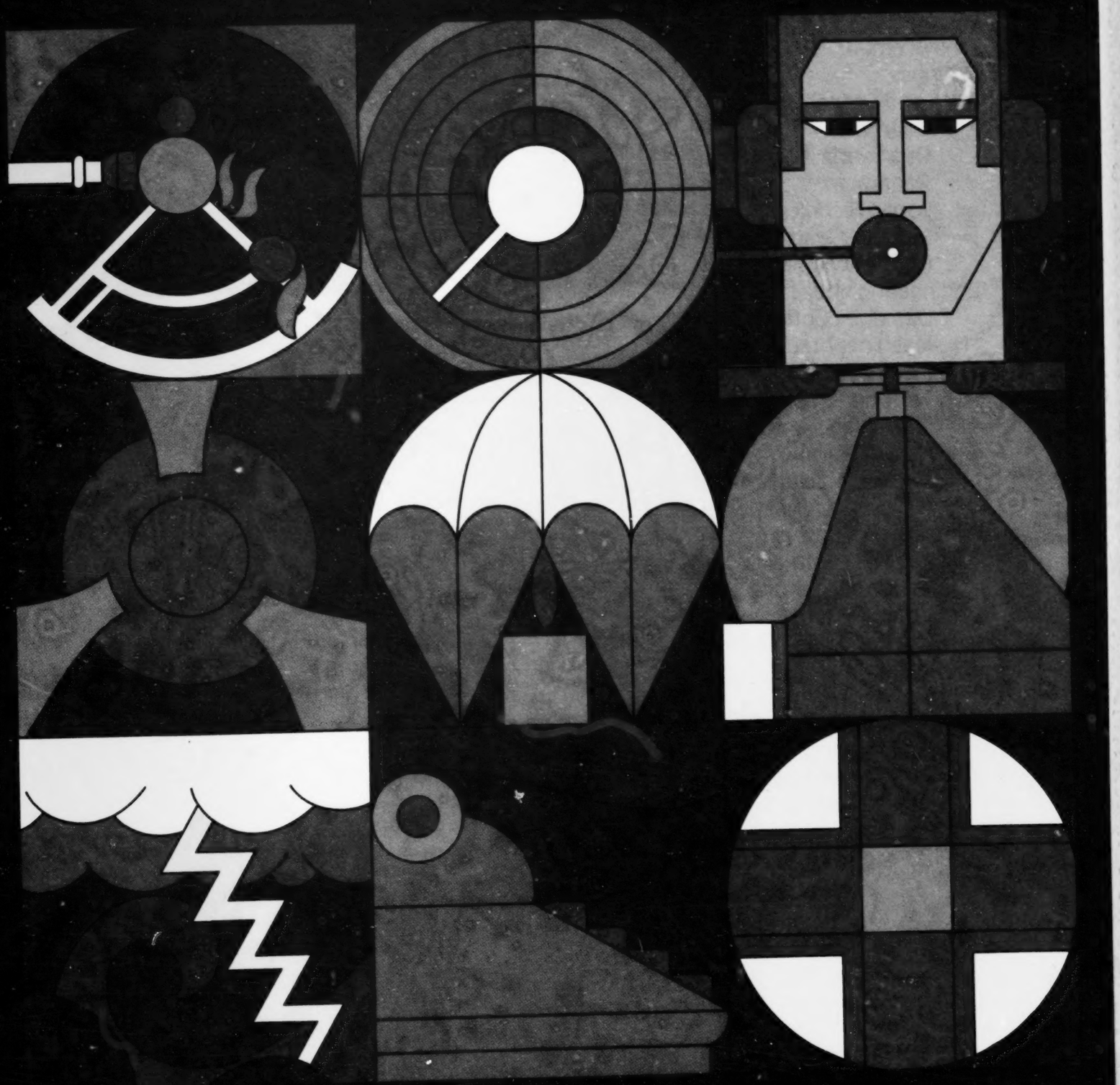
HELP YOURSELF

A Guide
to Enlisted Careers
in the
Coast Guard



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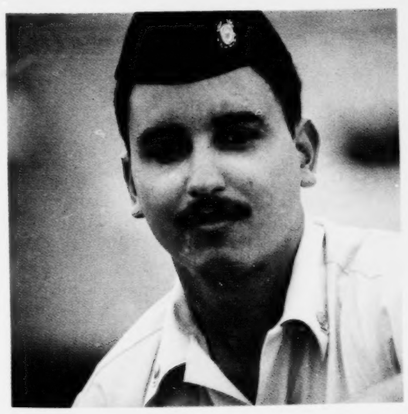

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INTRODUCTION

This book is just a beginning.

First, you'll learn about Coast Guard benefits . . . what anybody and everybody gets . . . without exception, including the chance to advance.

In the ratings section (ratings is our word for specialties), you'll get general information about Coast Guard enlisted careers: what you'll do, how you'll qualify, and how you'll train.

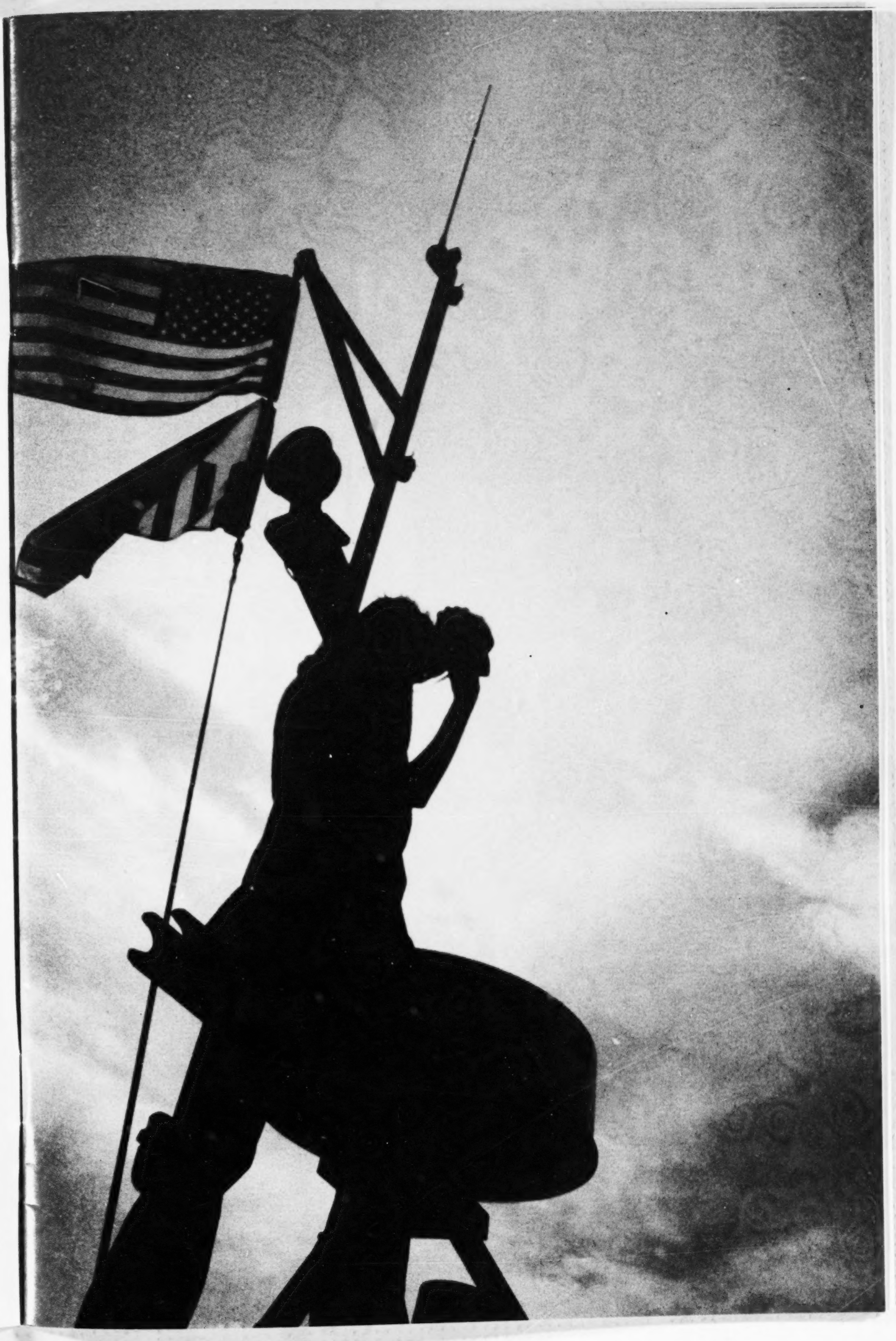
(Best of all, there's a list of civilian-related jobs under each rating to show you how each job will help once you go on to something else.)

Then there's a section on special programs you can take advantage of if you qualify. It includes a section on advancement up through the enlisted ranks. And it covers going from enlisted to Coast Guard officer.

Beyond that, the book's title says a lot.

Where you go from here is all up to you, but you won't be alone. Because while the Coast Guard's main jobs are saving lives, battling pollution and making the waterways safe, it has another pretty important challenge . . . helping YOU.

Information in this booklet is subject to change. See your nearest Coast Guard Recruiter for the latest information. To find out where your recruiter is located, call 800-424-8883, toll free.



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1. BENEFITS
What's In the Coast Guard for You?

Plenty.

First of all, you'll draw a regular paycheck twice a month, with extra money for uniforms, dependents, sea duty and other special considerations.

You can participate in Veterans Administration programs that provide funds for college expenses. When money is available, the Coast Guard sponsors its own tuition assistance funds for your education through correspondence or night school. (Most Coast Guard schools and correspondence courses are accredited. Even boot camp is worth a few credits toward a college degree.)

You'll get free medical and dental care.

You'll get 30 days vacation with pay each year.

You'll get an excellent, low-cost life insurance policy.

You'll get a chance to travel. (Don't let the name Coast Guard fool you. Sure, we guard the U.S. coasts. But you'll find Coast Guard units operating in almost any part of the world.)

You'll get full use of commissaries and exchanges where available. You'll find, on the average, prices are lower than you're used to paying.

If you decide to stay around after your first tour, you may get reenlistment bonuses. And if you stick around for 20 years or more, you may be eligible for retirement benefits.

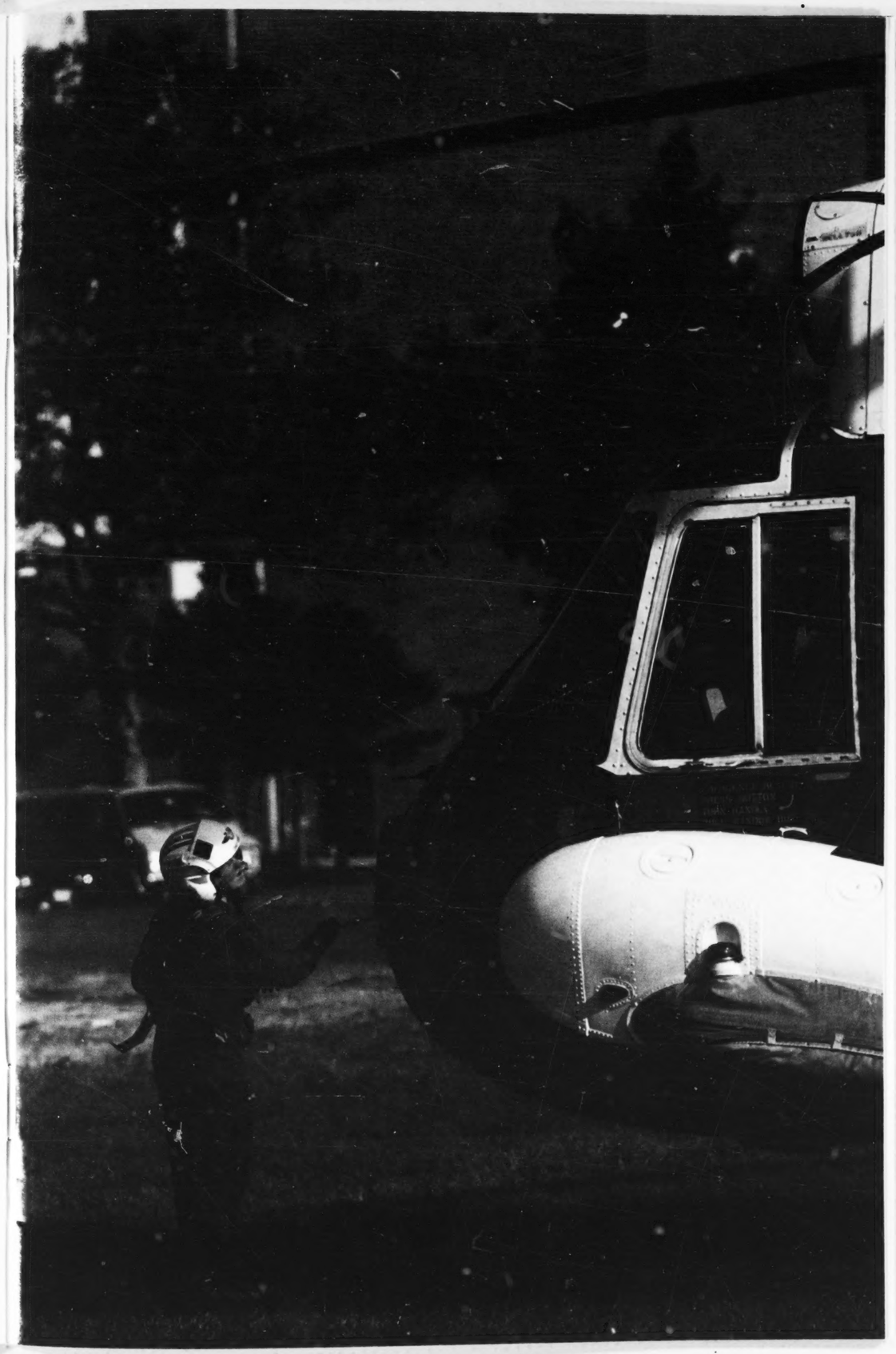
2. ADVANCEMENT
Through the Enlisted Ranks

The Coast Guard provides different ways to advance to petty officer status.

You may:

1. Decide upon a specific petty officer school while in recruit training and begin qualifying for it then.
2. Wait until after recruit training to get a more general knowledge of the Coast Guard and then choose just the right school for you.
3. "Strike" for petty officer status by actually performing on-the-job duties. Strikers work under the guidance of experienced personnel and learn to study job-related manuals and publications and keep their information updated. You become a petty officer by doing the job well, completing correspondence courses in your chosen specialty, and passing a written examination.

After attaining petty officer status, advancement is based on a servicewide system of competition where each person competes with his or her peers for the available positions. The servicewide system of competition guarantees that if you are qualified you will be promoted, regardless of whether your particular unit needs an individual in the next higher pay grade or not. So, promotions in the Coast Guard depend on each person's own initiative and skill. It's really up to you.



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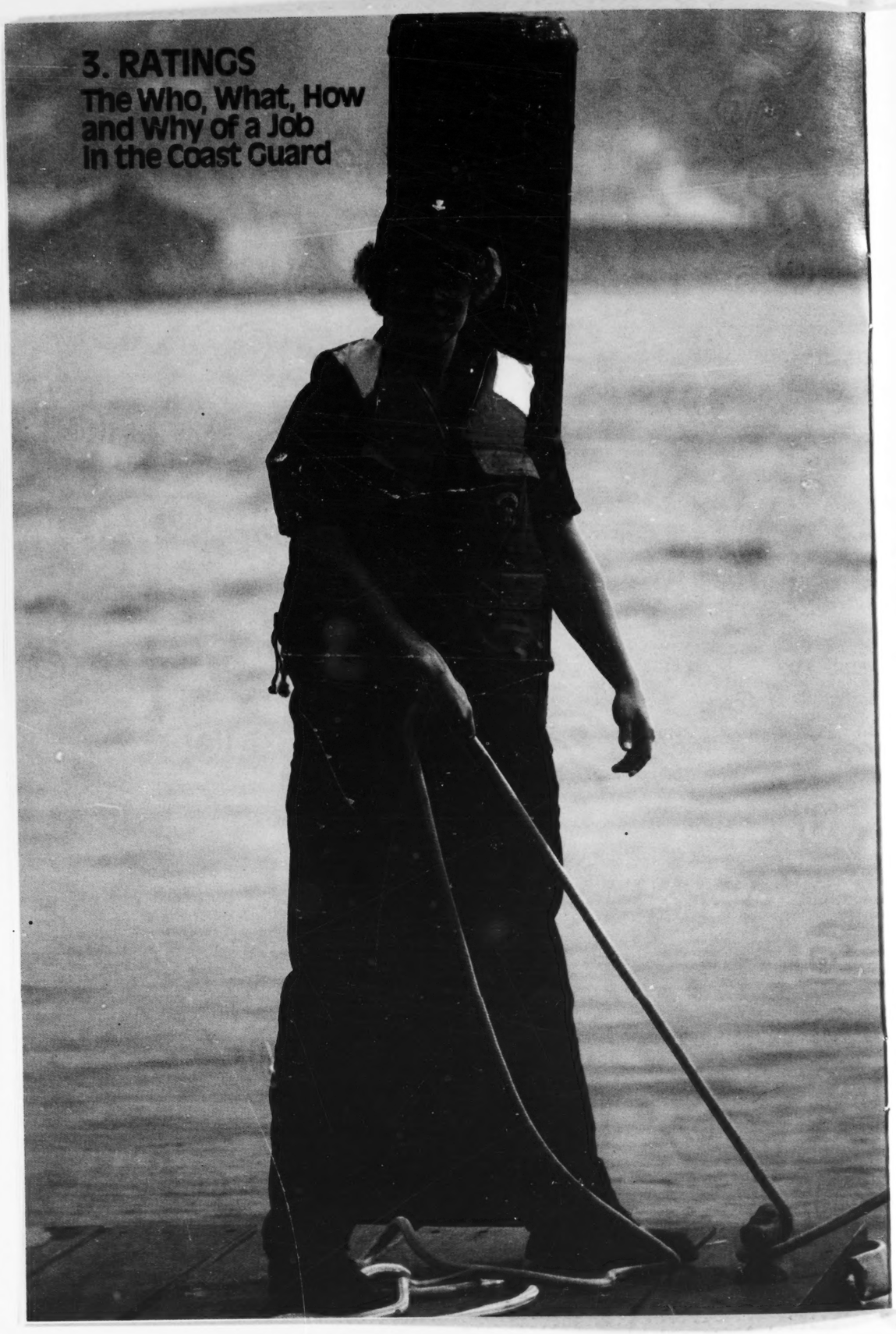
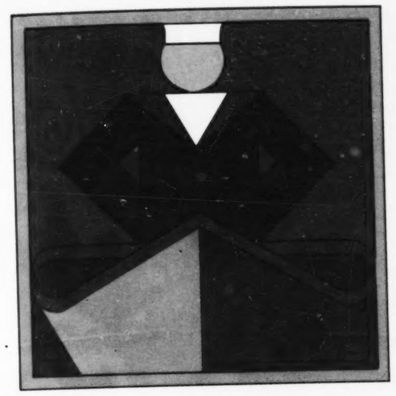


3. RATINGS
The Who, What, How and Why of a Job in the Coast Guard

DECK AND ORDNANCE GROUP



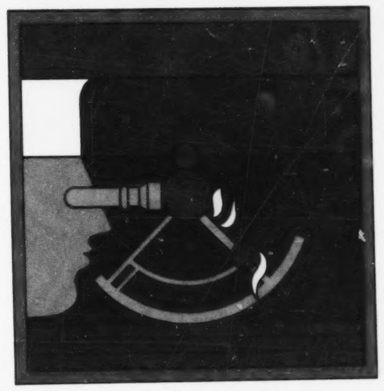
Boatswain's Mate (BM)

The Boatswain's Mate is the master seaman — a person skilled in all phases of seamanship and in handling of deck force personnel. The Boatswain's Mate frequently acts as officer in charge of patrol boats, tugs, small craft, port security teams and small shore units. BMs are capable of performing almost any task in connection with the operation of small boats, navigation, entering or leaving port, storing cargo and handling ropes and lines.

Qualifications: Boatswain's Mates must be leaders. They must be physically strong with good hearing and vision. They should possess a high degree of manual dexterity. School courses in algebra, geometry and shop are helpful. Previous experience handling small boats is extremely valuable.↓

Training: You can prepare to become a Boatswain's Mate through either 10 weeks of intensive training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Pier Superintendent
Tugboat Crewman
Heavy Equipment Operator
Marina Supervisor
Marina Operator
Ship Pilot



Quartermaster (QM)

Safety at sea depends largely on skillful navigation, keeping a careful lookout for other ships, obstacles, etc., and proficient signal exchange with other ships and shore stations. So the Quartermaster has one of the most important responsibilities aboard ship. Quickly and accurately, he or she must be able to read and understand charts, signals and all things which might affect the ship.

Qualifications: Quartermasters need good vision and hearing, and should be able to express themselves clearly in writing and speaking. School courses in public speaking, grammar and geometry are extremely beneficial.↓

Training: Training for Quartermaster begins with either 12 weeks of intensive training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Navigator
Small Craft Operator

↓ normal or better color perception required

↡ normal or better hearing is required

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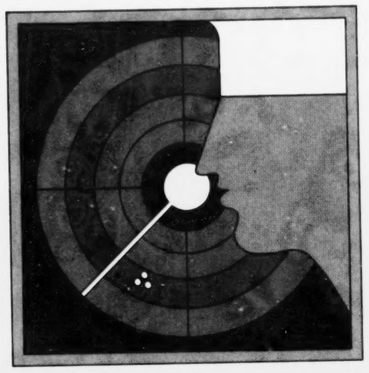


Radarman (RD)

Because of highly skilled Radarmen, a countless number of ships have avoided collision, have missed bad weather, and have located other vessels in distress. Radarmen operate all types of radar, radio, and plotting equipment to search for, locate, and track the movement of ships, aircraft and other surface objects. They must also be able to apply tactical and operational communications procedures quickly and correctly.

Qualifications: Radarmen should be able to use numbers in practical problems. They must have good vision, normal hearing and a clear voice. A background in mathematics and shop courses in radio and electricity is helpful, as is experience in operating ham radio systems. Due to sensitivity of assignments, RD applicants must have stable backgrounds.↓↓

Training: Training for Radarman begins with either 17 weeks of specialized training at Navy Operations Specialist School, Dam Neck, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Radio Operator
Controlroom Manager
Air Traffic Controller
Missile Tracking Specialist

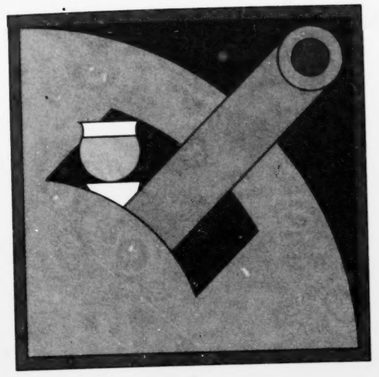
Sonar Technician (ST)

Whether it's searching for submerged wrecks, detecting reefs in uncharted waters, or keeping up with the latest techniques in anti-submarine warfare, it's part of the Sonar Technician's job. The ST is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all sonar equipment. In addition, he or she may occasionally transmit and receive messages using standard sonar equipment.

Qualifications: Sonar Technicians must have normal hearing and vision, and clear speaking voices. They should be proficient in using numbers to solve practical problems. School courses in algebra, physics, electricity and shop are very useful.↓↓

Training: Training for the Sonar Technician rating starts with 43 weeks of intensive training at the Fleet ASW Training Center, San Diego, Ca.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Electronics Technician
Radio Operator
Sounding Device Operator



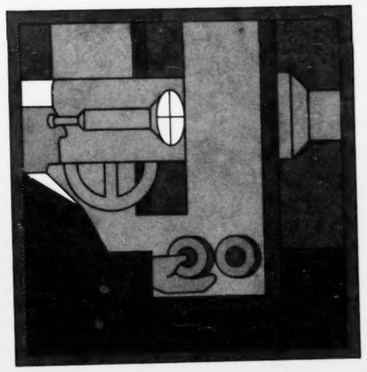
Gunner's Mate (GM)

The Gunner's Mate must be an expert in everything from small arms to rocket launchers. Even the pyrotechnics that light the sky for nighttime search and rescue missions are responsibilities of the Gunner's Mate. GMs operate, maintain and repair all gunnery equipment and handle ammunition.

Qualifications: Gunner's Mates should possess a high degree of mechanical aptitude. School training in mathematics, electricity, physics and shopwork provide a helpful background.↓

Training: Training for Gunner's Mate begins with either 11 weeks of expert training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Gunsmith
Locksmith
Machinist
Ammunition Foreman
Armorer
Hydraulic Equipment Mechanic



Fire Control Technician (FT)

The Fire Control Technician maintains and repairs the extremely complicated electronic, hydraulic and mechanical equipment required to compute and resolve the many factors that influence the accuracy of weapons fire. A specialist in the ordnance department, the Fire Control Technician understands the effects of wind, parallax and ship's movement in solving fire-control problems.

Qualifications: Fire Control Technicians should have an aptitude for detailed mechanical work and be interested in electronics. They should be above average in their ability to solve practical arithmetic problems quickly and accurately. School courses in electricity, algebra, physics, trigonometry, and shop are helpful as is any practical experience in the mechanical or electrical trades.↓

Training: Training for Fire Control Technician begins with 34 weeks of intensive training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Il.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Electrical Repairman
Radar Repairman
Radio Repairman
Missile Tracking Specialist

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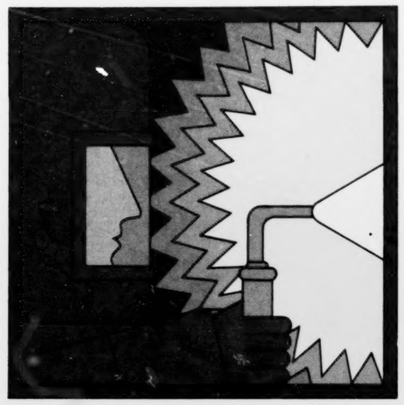
ENGINEERING AND HULL GROUP



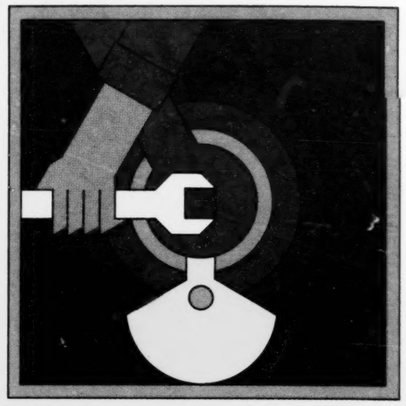
Damage Controlman (DC)

The Damage Controlman is responsible for preservation of modern safety and survival devices on all Coast Guard vessels. DCs are the human safeguard for the ship and its personnel. Duties include, among other things, welding, firefighting, pipefitting and woodworking. They also maintain shore installations.

Qualifications: Damage Controlmen should possess mechanical aptitude and should have such personality traits as self-reliance, ingenuity and poise under pressure. School courses in carpentry, metal working, machining, practical mathematics and chemistry are extremely useful. Experience as a volunteer or full-time civilian fireman is also advantageous.

Training: Training for the Damage Controlman rating begins with either 13 weeks of specialized training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Fireman
Carpenter
Construction Foreman
Safety Engineer
Building Superintendent
Machinist



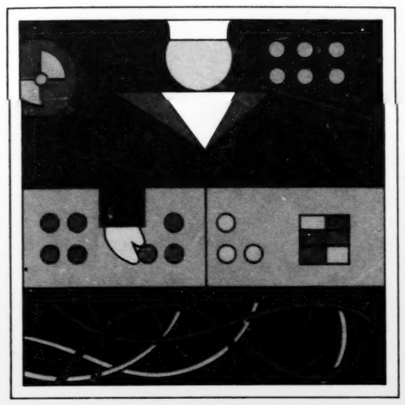
Machinery Technician (MK)

The Machinery Technician must be an expert on internal combustion engines, both gasoline and diesel. The MK must also be knowledgeable about refrigeration, air conditioning, fuel systems, basic shipfitting, steam-propulsion machinery, reciprocating pumps, forced draft blowers, hydraulic systems, pneumatic systems, propulsion shafting, turbines, and finally must be a machinist and able to read blueprints.

Qualifications: Machinery Technicians should be average or better in their ability to solve practical mathematical problems and have an aptitude for work of a mechanical nature. School courses in mechanics, machine shop, electricity and practical mathematics are desirable. Practical experience as a mechanic, machinist or power plant operator is extremely valuable.

Training: Training for Machinery Technician starts with either 16 weeks of specialized training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Auto Mechanic
Air Conditioning Serviceman
Refrigeration Specialist
Machinist



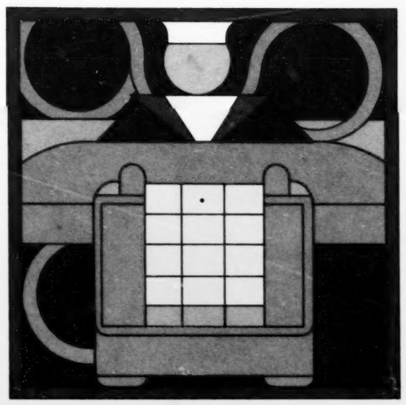
Electronics Technician (ET)

Electronics Technicians handle continuous checking and repairing of sophisticated electronics equipment, radio receivers and transmitters, radar, LORAN (Long Range Aids to Navigation), OMEGA, computer, and sonar equipment. These people are truly specialists of the electronics age.

Qualifications: Electronics Technicians should be interested in the field of electronics, have an aptitude for fine, detailed, mechanical work and be above average in ability to solve practical mathematical problems quickly and accurately. School courses in electricity, physics, algebra, trigonometry and shop are helpful. Practical experience in any mechanical or electrical trade is of tremendous value.↓

Training: Training for the Electronics Technician rating begins with 23 weeks training at Coast Guard Training Center, Governors Island, New York, N.Y.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Electronics Technician
Guidance Systems Specialist
Radio and Radar Repairman
Computer Technician
Telephone Repairman



Telephone Technician (TT)

The Telephone Technician installs, operates and repairs all types of wire-connected communications equipment, including telephone, telegraph, teletype, PBS exchanges, switchboards and public address systems. TTs also install antennas and help construct pole lines and cable plants.

Qualifications: Telephone Technicians should be interested in working with electrical and electronic equipment, have an aptitude for detailed mechanical work and be above average in ability to solve practical mathematical problems. School courses in algebra, physics, trigonometry, electricity and communications are useful. Practical experience working with electronic and electrical equipment or with communications equipment is extremely helpful.↓

Training: The future Telephone Technician must first go to 13 weeks of Electronics Technician school followed by 16 weeks of specialized training as a Telephone Technician at Coast Guard Training Center, Governors Island, New York, N.Y.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Electronics Technician
Telephone Installer
Teletype Operator
Telephone Lineman

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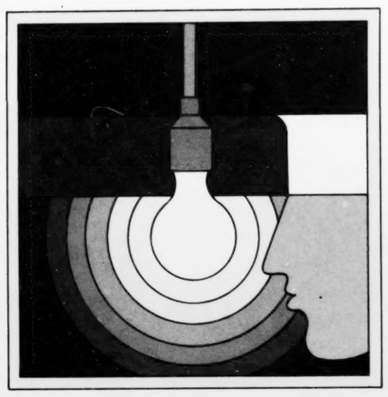
AVIATION GROUP*



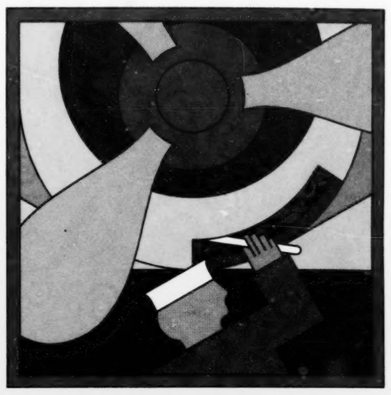
Electrician's Mate (EM)

The fundamentals of electricity, alternating and direct currents, circuits, switchboards, searchlights and other electrical instruments are all part of the Electrician's Mate's storehouse of knowledge. The EM is responsible for the operation and repair of a ship's or station's electrical power plant and electrical equipment. EMs also take care of electrical propulsion equipment, gyrocompass and related equipment, and ships' internal communications equipment and systems.

Qualifications: Electrician's Mates should possess aptitude for practical mathematics and work of an electrical and mechanical nature. Training in school shop, practical mathematics and physics are very useful. Previous electrical experience is extremely valuable.↓

Training: Training for Electrician's Mate begins either with 17 weeks training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Electrician
Electrical Systems Inspector
Electrical Research and Design Consultant
Electrical Construction Foreman



Aviation Machinist Mate (AD)

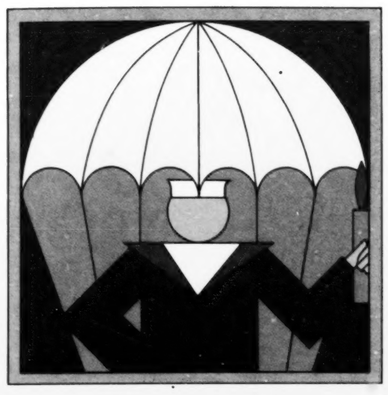
The Aviation Machinist Mate's major responsibility is the maintenance and repair of aircraft engines. Theirs are the hands of the experts. Not only do they know aircraft engines inside out, but also receive special training in basic aerodynamics, ignition systems, fuel systems, machine elements and hydraulic systems.

Qualifications: Aviation Machinist Mates should possess an aptitude for mechanics. School courses in algebra, geometry, machine shop and mechanics are very helpful.↓

Training: Training for the Aviation Machinist Mate rating begins with 17 weeks of intensive training at Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, N.C.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Flight Engineer
Airline Maintenance Supervisor
Mechanic
Machinist
Airplane Inspector

***In order to enter an aviation rating, you must satisfactorily pass an aircrew candidate physical examination and volunteer for duty involving flying in any type of Coast Guard aircraft.**



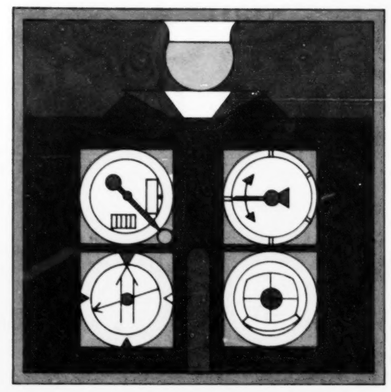
Aviation Survivalman (ASM)

The Aviation Survivalman maintains, rigs and repairs all types of parachutes. They operate and handle small arms, aviation munitions and pyrotechnics. ASMs service and maintain oxygen-breathing equipment, droppable pumps and all search and rescue equipment carried by Coast Guard aircraft.

Qualifications: Aviation Survivalmen should be able to perform extremely careful and accurate work. School courses in mathematics and shop are extremely helpful, as is prior parachuting and a knowledge of survival equipment.↓

Training: Training for Aviation Survivalman begins with 16 weeks of specialized training at Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, N.C. ASM school graduates will be required to successfully complete the U.S. Navy rescue swimmer school.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Parachute Repairman
Ammunition Foreman
Parachute Packer
Survival Equipment Specialist



Aviation Electronics Technician (AT)

The Aviation Electronics Technician is responsible for the operational condition of radio, radar and other electronic devices which are used for rapid communications, controlled landing approaches, detection of distressed vessels, and efficient navigation.

Qualifications: Aviation Electronics Technicians should be proficient in solving practical mathematical problems and possess a high degree of electrical and mechanical aptitude. School courses in algebra, trigonometry, physics, electricity and mechanics are extremely useful, as is practical experience in the electrical trade.↓↓

Training: Training for Aviation Electronics Technicians begins with 24 weeks of intensive training at Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, N.C.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Aircraft Electrician
Aircraft Communications Specialist
Radio and Radar Repairman
Computer Technician
Radio Operator

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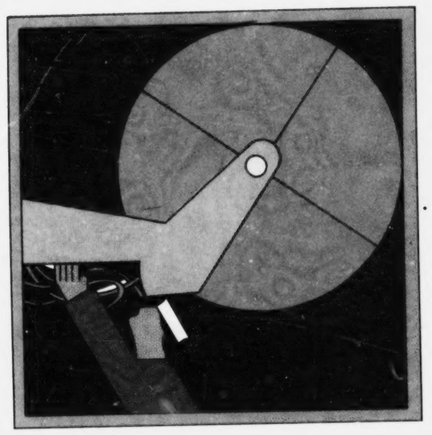


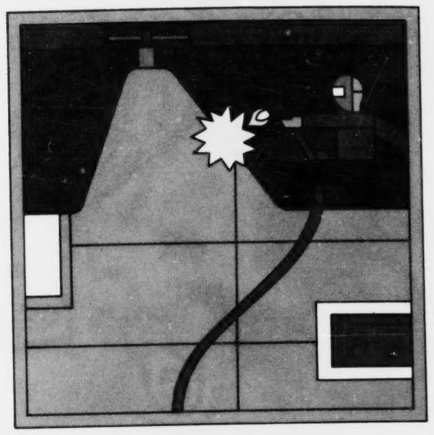
Aviation Electrician's Mate (AE)

Basic electrical theory, wiring systems, generator and motor theory, power circuits, direct and alternating current, machinery, and basic electronics are all part of the Aviation Electrician's Mate's domain. AEs keep the maze of electrical mechanisms and systems in Coast Guard aircraft working properly.

Qualifications: Aviation Electrician's Mates should possess a high aptitude for electrical work. School courses in algebra, trigonometry, physics and electricity are helpful. Practical experience working with automotive electrical circuits is very valuable.↓

Training: Training for the Aviation Electrician's Mate rating begins with 19 weeks of specialized training at Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, N.C.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Airplane Electrician
Instrument Inspector
Substation Operator
Electrician
Electrical Consultant



Aviation Structural Mechanic (AM)

The Aviation Structural Mechanic maintains and repairs aircraft surfaces, airframe structures, landing gear, control surfaces and all attending mechanisms. This requires working with metals, alloys, plastics and fabrics. The Aviation Structural Mechanic learns basic aerodynamics, welding, fabrication of sheet metal and operation of basic machine shop equipment.

Qualifications: Aviation Structural Mechanics should be average or better in general learning ability and have a definite aptitude for mechanical work. Desirable school courses are shopwork in metal and woodworking, algebra and geometry. Experience in automotive body work and general mechanical work is extremely valuable.↓

Training: Upon completion of recruit training, further training for the Aviation Structural Mechanic begins with 16 weeks at Coast Guard Aviation Technical Training Center, Elizabeth City, N.C.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Aircraft Mechanic
Plexiglass Former
Welder

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCIENTIFIC GROUP

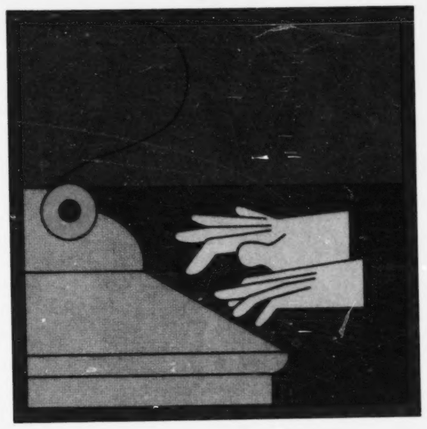
Marine Science Technician (MST)

The Marine Science Technician observes, collects, analyzes and disseminates meteorological and oceanographic data. MSTs make visual and instrumental weather and oceanographic observations, and conduct routine chemical analyses. Their analysis and interpretation of weather and sea conditions furnish advice used in search and rescue operations. The information helps direct merchant, pleasure and military vessels safely, and provides data for the protection of our environment.

Qualifications: Marine Science Technicians should have an aptitude for mathematics. School courses in algebra, trigonometry, chemistry, physics and typewriting are very helpful. Training or experience in meteorology, oceanography or astronomy is tremendously valuable.

Training: Training for the rating of Marine Science Technician begins with 10 weeks of training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Meteorologist's Assistant
Oceanographer's Assistant
Weather Forecaster
Marine Environmental Specialist



Yeoman (YN)

As in the case of big business, the Coast Guard's effective administration depends on the efficient performance of a highly trained clerical staff. Yeomen fill that need. They are the Coast Guard's personnel specialists. They do all of the personnel records maintenance. They prepare records and keep the Coast Guard's vast number of letters, messages and reports flowing smoothly. Yeomen also operate a variety of automated data and word processing equipment.

Qualifications: Yeomen need qualifications similar to those of secretaries, stenographers and typists in private industry. Yeomen should possess a degree of manual dexterity and must be able to work harmoniously with others in an office organization. Courses in English and in business subjects such as typewriting, automated data and word processing, and filing are very useful.

Training: Training for Yeoman begins with 4 weeks of typing school followed by 6 weeks of yeoman instruction at Coast Guard Training Center, Petaluma, Ca., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Executive Secretary
Personnel Manager
Personnel Specialist
Court Reporter
Legal Clerk
Word Processor

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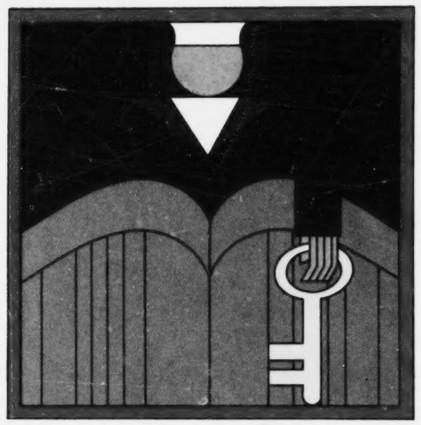


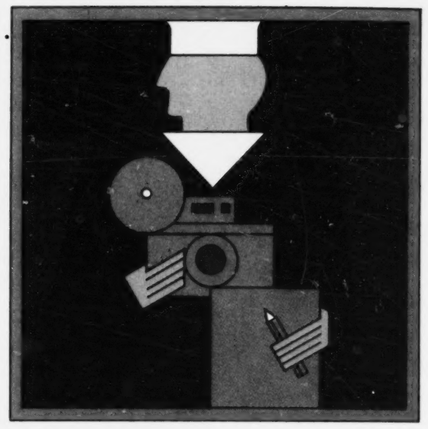
Storekeeper (SK)

Someone must be able to provide and account for a constant supply of pay, clothing, commissary items, and spare parts. This someone is the Storekeeper, also adept at personnel management and administrative decision making. The Storekeeper is to the Coast Guard what the accountant is to civilian industry.

Qualifications: Storekeepers should be able to solve practical mathematical problems quickly and accurately. They must be able to write and print legibly and to record numbers accurately and neatly. School courses in bookkeeping, accounting, computing, commercial arithmetic and English are desirable, as is practical experience in stock inventorying and operating office machines.

Training: Training for the Storekeeper rating commences with either 10 weeks training at Coast Guard Training Center, Petaluma, Ca., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Purchasing Agent
Retail Food Manager
Bookkeeper
Warehouseman
Shipping Clerk



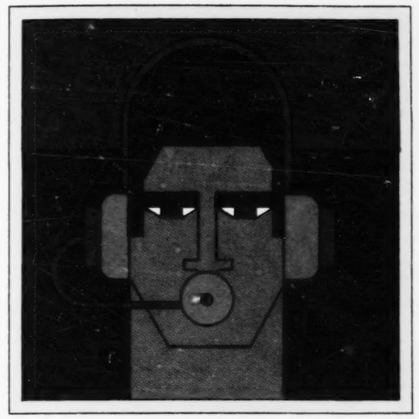
Public Affairs Specialist (PA)

The Public Affairs Specialist helps maintain high Coast Guard morale by getting news to shipmates and the general public about the Coast Guard's developments, accomplishments and policies. This is done through news releases, television and radio scripts, ship and station newspapers and information brochures. In addition, PAs take and process photographs.

Qualifications: Public Affairs Specialists must have the ability to write clearly, accurately and quickly. They should have a command of the English language. Desirable personality traits are attentiveness, initiative, creativity and poise under pressure. School courses in English, journalism and typing are advantageous.↓

Training: The future Public Affairs Specialist receives intensive specialized instruction for 10 weeks at the joint-service Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, In.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Professional Photographer
News Reporter
Layout Artist
Freelance Writer
Public Relations



Radioman (RM) (Telecommunications Specialist)

The Radioman (RM) rating in the Coast Guard is a combination of the tasks traditionally assigned to Radiomen through the years, plus a group of new responsibilities which modern technology has made necessary.

Today's modern electronics systems require a working knowledge of electronic data processing systems through sophisticated data terminals and other computer aids. A thorough knowledge of encryption and decryption equipment and their security requirements is also necessary.

Traditionally, Radiomen have been responsible for point-to-point radio and radioteletype communications, Continuous Wave (CW) or Morse Code point to point transmission and reception and distress radio frequency monitoring and interpretation.

In addition to modern and traditional requirements, RMs must process and administrate communications, and coordinate messages on communications circuits.

More importantly, the Radioman is often functioning as the link between people in distress and a rescue vessel or aircraft.

Information and communications are essential elements in the overall operation of the Coast Guard and Radiomen provide the necessary expertise in this key mission area.

Qualifications: Your Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Clerical and Arithmetic test scores must total 100 or more. Average learning ability and a clear speaking voice are required. No prior experience is necessary; however, typing, data processing, computer, or amateur radio experience is beneficial.↓

Training: The future Radioman begins instruction with four weeks of code-typing class. Then, there are 20 weeks of intensive specialized instruction in Radioman School at Coast Guard Training Center, Petaluma, Ca.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Telecommunications Manager
Computer Operator
Radio Dispatcher
Telex Operator
Key Punch Operator
Telegrapher
Word Processor

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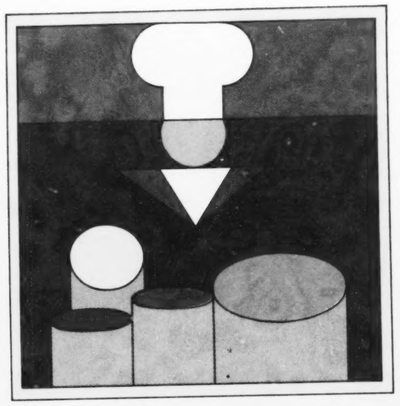


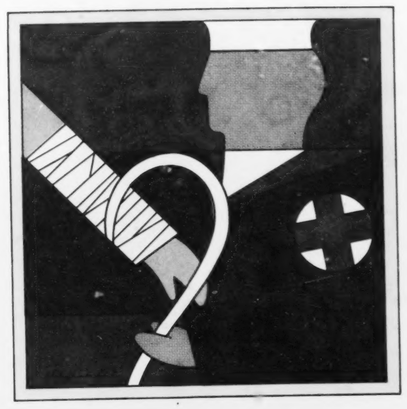
Subsistence Specialist (SS)

The Subsistence Specialist prepares menus, procures supplies, and attends to the preparation of wholesome, satisfying meals . . . in other words, feeds the Coast Guard. A Subsistence Specialist learns meatcutting, baking, cooking and such related subjects as sanitation, dietetics, and personnel administration.

Qualifications: Subsistence Specialists should have an interest in food preparation. They should have the ability to understand and apply instructions relating to the proper storage, issue and preparation of food. Desirable personality traits include high standards of honesty and personal cleanliness. Experience or school courses in food preparation and dietetics are helpful.

Training: Training for the Subsistence Specialist begins with either 13 weeks of specialized instruction at Coast Guard Training Center, Petaluma, Ca., or by striking on the job.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Chef
Restaurant Manager
Caterer
Baker



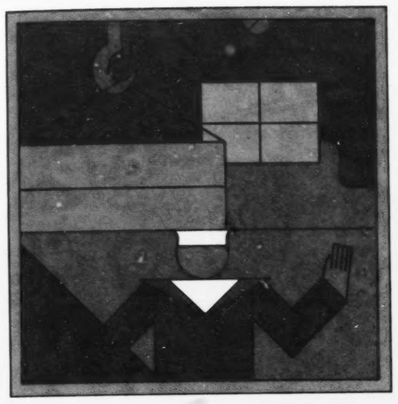
Health Services Technician (HS)

The Health Services Technician not only carries responsibility for the health of shipmates, but also plays an important role in one of the Coast Guard's major functions — lifesaving. HS personnel learn human anatomy and physiology, chemistry, pharmacy, dentistry, preventive medicine, and medical administration. They become qualified in dental X-ray techniques, maintain dental equipment and will assist dental officers.

Qualifications: Health Services Technicians should have pleasing personalities, a desire to help those in need of medical attention, and possess the ability to work closely with others. They should be able to solve practical mathematical problems. School courses in hygiene, biology, physiology, chemistry, typewriting and public speaking are definite assets. Dental or medical experience is extremely helpful. ↓

Training: Training for Health Services Technicians begins with 24 weeks of instruction and practical application at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Ct.

Related Civilian Jobs:
X-ray Technician
Medical/Dental Technician
Pharmaceutical Salesman
Physician's/Dentist's Assistant



Port Securityman (PS)*

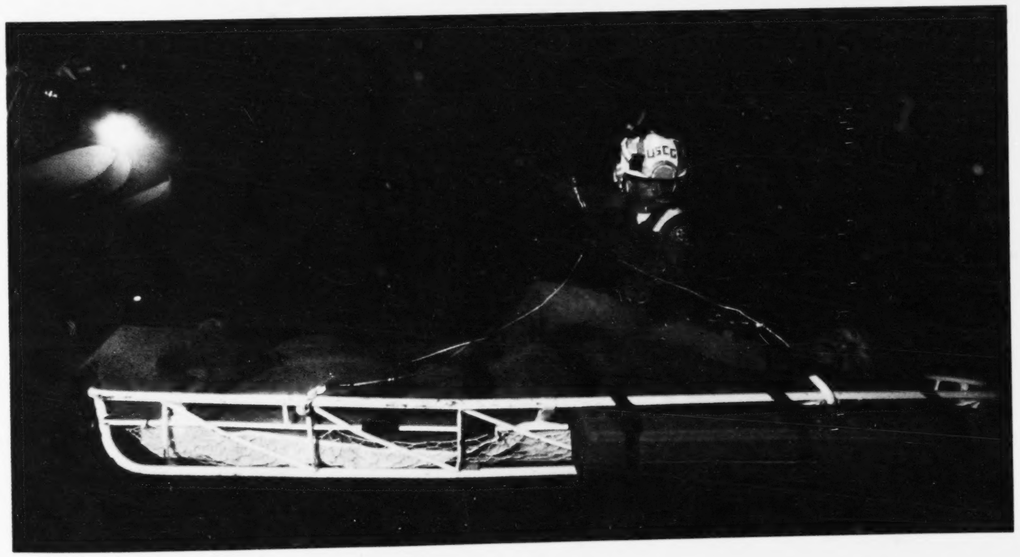
The Port Securityman supervises and controls the safe handling, transportation and storage of explosives and other dangerous cargoes. Well versed in the regulations and equipment responsible for the security of vessels, harbors and waterfront facilities, the Port Securityman is an expert in the field of fire prevention and extinguishment.

Qualifications: Port Securitymen should be average or above in general learning ability and have normal hearing and vision. School courses in practical mathematics, chemistry and English are helpful. Any prior experience in law enforcement is extremely beneficial.

Training: Training for Port Securityman begins with 10 weeks of intensive training at Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va.

Related Civilian Jobs:
Insurance Investigator
Fireman
Pier Superintendent
Warehouseman

***The Port Securityman rating is open only to members of the Coast Guard Reserve.**



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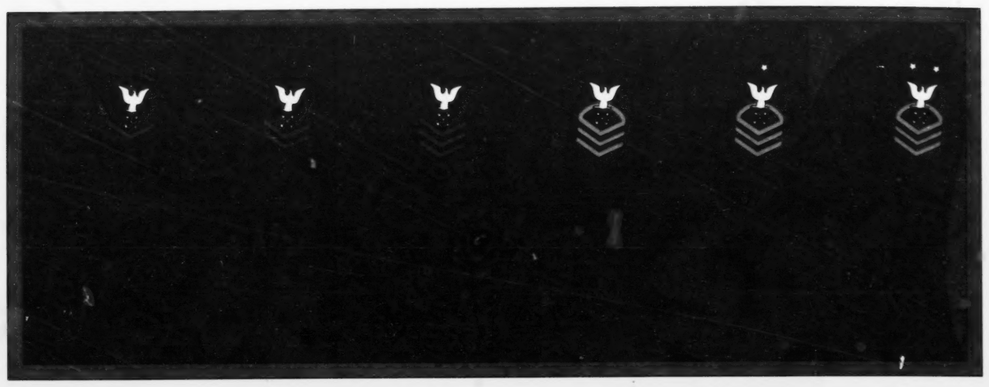
4. SPECIAL PROGRAMS



1. **Delayed Enlistment.** You can sign up now and wait up to six months to join (up to one year if you're still in school). There's an advantage to that. The time between the day you sign up and the day you report guarantees you a specific enlistment date.

2. **A Buddy Plan.** It's for you and that friend you've gone through a lot with. Under this program, if you and a buddy sign up together, we'll guarantee you'll start boot camp together.

3. **Moving Up to Warrant Officer.** Warrant officers have earned special status by their ability and experience. Warrant officers are technical specialists in a prescribed occupational area. In addition, they have administrative and supervisory duties. They form a valuable link between the general duty officer, whose area is broader, and the petty officer, who concentrates on the closely related group of skills to be found in one rating. Chief petty officers, and first class petty officers who qualify for advancement to chief petty officer, may apply for the warrant officer program.

4. **Moving up to General Duty Officer.** If you're interested and qualified, you'll be actively encouraged to apply for Officer Candidate School as you become eligible. If selected, you'll go to the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center in Yorktown, Va., for 17 weeks of intensive instruction in navigation, seamanship, communications, and principles of effective leadership. When you graduate from OCS, you'll be commissioned an ensign.

You'll also have the opportunity to qualify for admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., up until just before you reach your 22nd birthday. The Academy provides a free four-year college education as preparation for a career as a commissioned officer.

A FINAL THOUGHT

Making a service commitment is a pretty big step. Maybe the biggest of your life.

That's why we've filled this book with lots of details and facts. We know you probably still have a few questions.

Your Coast Guard recruiter's the person who can answer those questions with honest, above-board answers . . . serious answers to serious questions.

But, it's up to you.

Help yourself.

Information in this publication is subject to change. See your nearest Coast Guard Recruiter for the latest information. To find out where your recruiter is located, call 800-424-8883, toll free.

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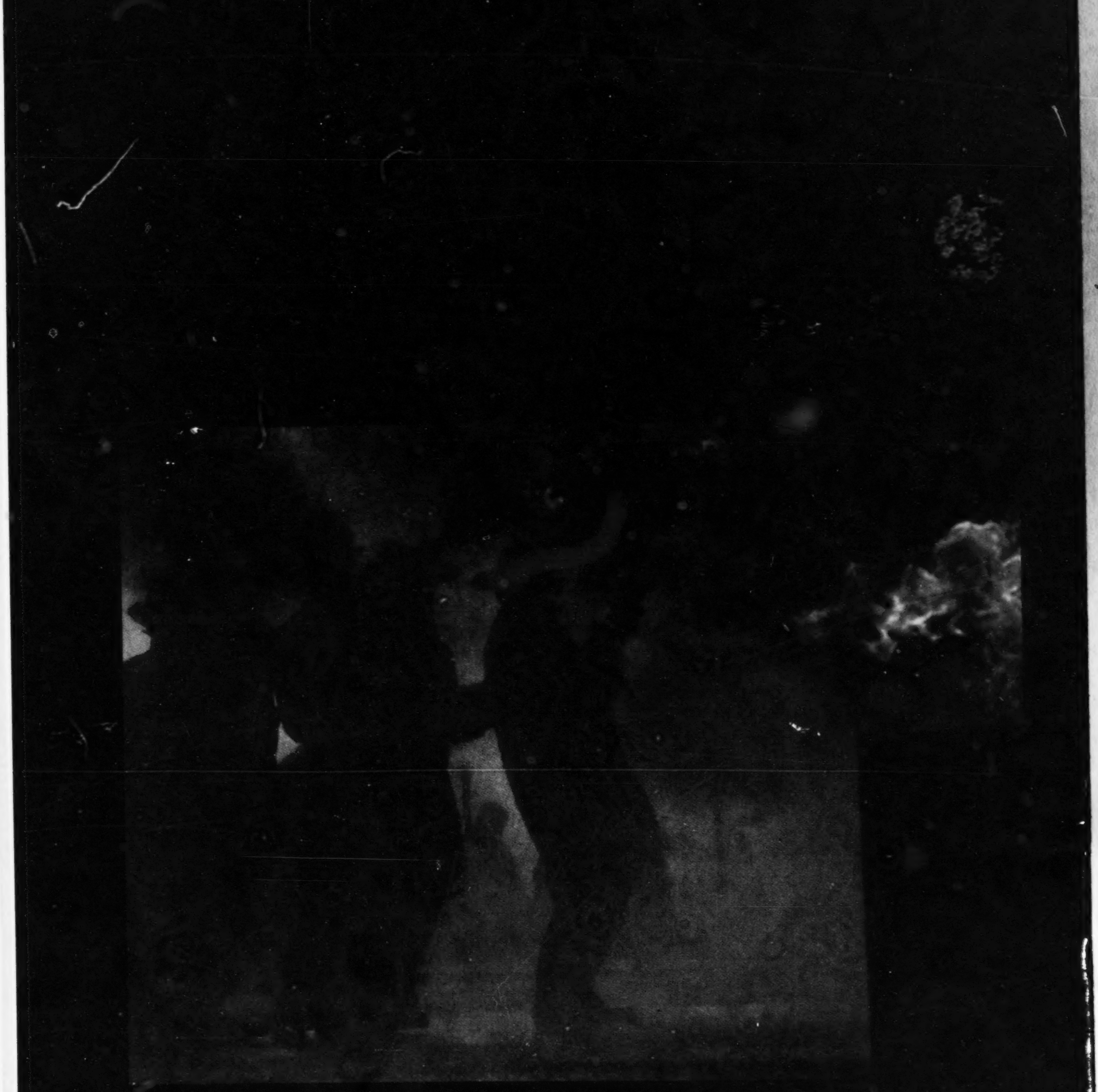

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